

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNGA DISARMAMENT: LIBERIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION ON

"NEW PHILOSOPHY OF DISARMAMENT"

1. LIBERIAN REP HARMON INTRODUCED A DRAFT RESOLUTION UNDER THE GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT ITEM NOV 29 THAT WOULD HAVE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARE A "NEW PHILOSOPHY OF DISARMAMENT" ANNEXED TO THE RESOLUTION. RES, CIRCULATED AS DOCUMENT A/C.1/31/L.28, IS SPONSORED SOLELY BY LIBERIA. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS HAVE EXPRESSED PERPLEXITY OVER DRAFT, THOUGH SEEING NOTHING OBJECTIONABLE IN IT. SOME NON-ALIGNED, HOWEVER, CAN BE EXPECTED TO OBJECT STRONGLY TO ADOPTION OF THE PAPER AS A "DECLARATION," PREEMPTING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A MORE SUBSTANTIAL DOCUMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPECIAL SESSION.

2. WE ARE INCLINED TO DOUBT THAT LIBERIANS WILL ACTUALLY PRESS DRAFT TO A VOTE, BUT WILL REPORT ANY INDICATIONS THAT THEY INTEND TO DO SO.

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3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LIBERIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION:

QUOTE

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

LIBERIA: DRAFT RESOLUTION

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

GRAVELY CONCERNED AT THE MOUNTING RISE OF ARMAMENTS IN THE ARSENALS OF THE WORLD'S NATIONS, DESPITE MANY EFFORTS AND MANY YEARS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS AND EVENTUAL COMPLETE AND TOTAL DISARMAMENT,

CONVINCED THAT THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD MUST BE MADE MORE FULLY AWARE OF THE DANGERS THIS CONDITION POSES TO PEACE AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS, AND THAT SUCH AWARENESS CAN BE MADE MANIFEST BY A DECLARATION ON THE NATURE OF THE DISARMAMENT PROBLEM,

ISSUES THE DECLARATION OF A NEW PHILOSOPHY ON DISARMAMENT, ENUNCIATING THE MAJOR PRINCIPLES, PREMISES AND PROBLEMS AS A COMMON APPROACH BY GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE PEOPLE IN A COLLECTIVE PARTNERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGENDA FOR THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS AND COMPLETE AND GENERAL DISARMAMENT.

THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DECLARATION OF A NEW PHILOSOPHY ON DISARMAMENT

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED ATIONS IS IMPELLED TO ISSUE A GENERAL STATEMENT ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUE OF DISARMAMENT.

DESPITE 30 YEARS OF SUSTANED UNITED NATIONS EFFORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, THE VOLUME OF ARMAMENTS IN NATIONAL ARSENALS IS GREATER THAN EVER, AND THE TOAL ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR MORE AND NEWER ARMS IS RUNNING INTO THE ASTRONOMICAL FIGURES OF HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS

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OF DOLLARS. SEEMINGLY AN ACCELERATED ARMAMENTS RACE IS RUNNING OUT OF THE CONTROL OF THE HUMAN SOCIETY.

IRONICALLY THIS DEDICATION TO MAXIMUM ARMING COINCIDES WITH MAN'S GREATEST EFFORT IN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY TO ATTAIN AN ORDER OF FINAL PEACE. THIS IS AN INTOLERABLE CONTRADICTION AND, IF NOT RESOLVED, COULD UNDERMINE EVERY BASIC ENDEAVOUR LAUNCHED TO BUILD A BETTER AND SAFER WORLD FOR ALL

MANKIND.

WITH SO MUCH AT STAKE WE CATEGORICALLY REJECT THE GROWING PESSIMISM THAT HUGE ARMAMENTS ARE THE HISTORIC FATE OF MAN AND NATIONS. IN THE DOGGED SPIRIT OF INTERNATIONAL ASPIRATIONS WE MUST NEVER GIVE UP TRYING TO BRING THE DEADLY RACE TO A STANDSTILL, AND BEYOND THAT TO DISMANTLE THE STRUCTURES OF WAR UNTIL NATIONS LEARN TO LIVE WITHOUT GUNS IN IN THEIR HANDS, IN AMITY AND PEACE.

THUS, WE END OUR THIRTY-FIRST SESSION WITH THE CONVICTION THAT A NEW BEGINNING MUST BE MADE, A NEW APPROACH FASHIONED - AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT INITIATED CHIEFLY TO MOBILIZE THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD IN A NEW AND MORE EFFECTIVE ENDEAVOUR. SUCH A MOBILIZATION WOULD, IN FACT, ONLY BE A FULFILMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER WHOSE FIRST THREE WORDS - "WE THE PEOPLE" - MAKES THEM BEYOND ALL GOVERNMENTS AND INTERSTATE INSTITUTIONS THE PRIMARY CUSTODIANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS HISTORIC PEACE MISSION. IT IS OUR FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE PEOPLE MUST NOW FULFIL THAT RESPONSIBILITY IN THE ENTIRE AREA OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT OBJECTIVES.

TO MAKE SUCH PARTICIPATION EFFECTIVE THE PEOPLE MUST BE INFORMED AS TO THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM, THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED, THE ISSUES AT STAKE. THEY MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IDEAS ON DISARMAMENT, LIKE WEAPONS, CAN BECOME DATED, THAT NEW CAUSES ARISE FOR NEW RIVALRIES, THAT NEW PROBLEMS DEMAND NEW ANSWERS.

NATIONS PRODUCE ARMS TO ASSURE THEIR NATIONAL SECURITY. BUT BEHIND EVERY CONCEPT OF NATIONAL EXISTENCE IS A PHILOSOPHY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONDITION. TODAY THIS PHILOSOPHY IS UNDERGOING PROFOUND CHANGE.

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IT IS THE AIM OF THIS DECLARATION, IN THE INTEREST OF AN ELIGHTENED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, TO OUTLINE WHAT IS EVOLVING AS A NEW PHILOSOPHY OF DISARMAMENT.

THE NEW PHILOSOPHY MIRRORS THE CHANGE IN THE WORLD SECURITY SITUATION. IN THIS CHANGE THE COLD WAR STRUGGLE, MAIN ROOT OF THE ARMS RACE, IS LARGE REDUCED AND WITH IT FEAR OF A MAJOR WAR AMONG THE BIG POWERS. DESPITE SOME HANGOVERS THERE IS AN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP AMONG ERSTWHILE HOSTILE NATIONS, AND AS THIS DEVELOPS, ARMS REDUCTIONS SHOULD HOPEFULLY FOLLOW IN PROPORTION.

BUT NEW CAUSES OF FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY HAVE EMERGED. THE TECHNOLOGICAL PERFECTION OF NEW AND MORE SOPHISTICATED

WEAPONS SURPASSES ALL SCIENTIFIC EXPECTATIONS. THE RACE IS NOW LESS IDEOLOGICAL AND MORE TECHNOLOGICAL.

ANOTHER NEW DISTURBANCE IS THE POVERTY OF NEW NATIONS WHOSE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE REBELLING AGAINST LEGACIES OF EXPLOITATION, DISEASE, HUNGER, MALNUTRITION, INFANT MORTALITY - AND ABOVE ALL HOPELESSNESS. THEIR FRUSTRATIONS ON MANY CONTINENTS ARE OVERTHROWING GOVERNMENTS, CREATING CIVIL WARS WHICH, IN TURN, INVITE FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND CONVERT ENTIRE NATIONS INTO A BATTLEGROUND IN A NEW KIND OF WAR - LESS IDEOLOGICAL AND MORE ECONOMIC. THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR PEOPLES THREATENS TO BECOME WAR BETWEEN NATIONS.

IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE AND JUSTICE THE UNITED NATIONS HAS LAUNCHED A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER TO SPEED UP THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOME 100 NATIONS. THIS WILL REQUIRE HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OVER THE YEARS - VAST SUMS THAT ARE NOW DIVERTED INTO THE PRODUCTION OF DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS.

THUS WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH A KIND OF MOLECULAR CHAIN REACTION. NEW WEAPONS CREATING NEW ARMS RACES SIPHON OFF THE VAST SUMS NEEDED TO HALT ECONOMIC WARS WHICH DRIVE NATIONS INTO NEW ARMING.

IT IS A VICIOUS CIRCLE THREATENING THE WORLD'S TWO MAJOR PEACE OBJECTIVES: FREEDOM FROM POLITICAL WARS THROUGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISARMAMENT; FREEDOM FROM ECONOMIC WARS THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

TO PARAPHRASE A FAMOUS PROPHECY: THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES AND THE PLOUGHSHARES SHALL MAKE NO NEED OF SWORDS.

THIS IS THE NEW PHILOSOPHY OF DISARMAMENT. IF IT BECOMES A UNIVERSAL CREED, PEOPLES WORKING TOGETHER WITH GOVERNMENTS AND THE WORLD ORGANIZATION, IN A THREE-WAY PARTNERSHIP, CAN MAKE THE AGE-OLD DREAM OF A TRULY PEACEFUL WORLD AN EVENTUAL REALITY.

UNQUOTE
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